National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Inside Wallops

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Wallops Researchers Study Earth Dynamics

Wallops researchers participated in varying projects in May which may lead to a better understanding of Earth's processes.

One project focused on the mapping of Greenland's ice sheets. The other involved tracking storms, including those that produced deadly tornadoes which swept through Texas May 27.

In a joint program with researchers from Texas A&M., Wallops personnel, led by Dr. John Gerlach (Code 972) and Jim Pafford (CSC), are involved in an experiment to gather data on the dynamics of storms. This data will be used to learn more about convective storms so as to help interpret data received from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellite scheduled for launch later this year.

The Wallops TOGA C-band weather radar is installed at Lake Sommerville, about 30 miles south of Bryan, TX. Working in conjunction with a radar located at Texas A&M, College Station, researchers are able to look at storms from two different directions, giving them a three dimensional view of the winds within rain storm cells, according to Gerlach.

The storm which produced the devastating tornado that passed through Jarrell, TX, came within approximately 75 miles of the TOGA and Texas A&M radar. Wallops contractor David Walker (NYMA) was operating the TOGA during the storms.

According to Dr. Mike Biggerstaff, co-investigator from Texas A&M, the deadly storms which passed through the state were at the outer range of the radar's field-of-view, which may limit what analysis may be conducted.

Meanwhile, the Wallops P-3B aircraft returned May 29 from a four-week mapping mission in Iceland and Greenland.

In Iceland, topographical mapping of the area that was impacted by the Fall 1996 volcanic eruption on the North Atlantic Island was completed by the Wallops team led by Bill Krabill (Code 972).

In Greenland, Wallops researchers repeated baseline measurements of ice sheet elevations. Any changes in these measurements will yield valuable data on the potential effects of global climate change.

Massage therapist Barbara Dolch (left) provides stress relief to a Wallops employee as others contemplate a turn on the chair during Focus On Our Future Day, May 21. The day's activities included seminars, exhibits and demonstrations to help employees plan for and deal with change. The planning committee thanks everyone who helped plan the day and those who participated in the various activities. Photo by Tom Burton

Suborbital Missions Conducted

Two sounding rocket missions and a scientific balloon mission were recently conducted from three separate locations in the United States.

A NASA Terrier-Orion sounding rocket serving as a target vehicle for a U.S. Army project was successfully launched May 23 from Wallops Island. Bruce Scott (Code 823) was the project manager.

A cosmic and heliospherics payload for New Mexico State University was successfully launched May 24 from Ft. Sumner, NM. The payload was flown on a 39.57 million cubic foot balloon. The balloon was successful, however, the experiment instrumentation failed during ascent. The payload was recovered. The principal investigator was Dr. Steven Stochaj.

A Black Brant IX sounding rocket carrying a radio astronomy payload was successfully launched May 29 from the White Sands Missile Range, NM. The objective of the Near Infrared Telescope Experiment was to image an edge-on spiral galaxy to probe a possible extended emission component associated with cool, low-mass stars. The payload was recovered. The principal investigator was Dr. Andrew Lange from the California Institute of Technology, and the project manager was Dave Moltedo (Code 823).

STAAC, AETD Briefing Set

A briefing on the new Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate (AETD) and Systems, Technology and Advanced Concepts Directorate (STAAC) will be given for Code 800 and 972 Civil Service personnel from noon to 2 p.m., June 5, in Blg. D-10.

Brian Keegan, AETD designated Director, and Orlando Figueroa, STAAC designated Director, will discuss the status of their respective organizations as a follow-on to Joe Rothenberg's March 17 Update on Project Goddard presentation.

Following the status reports, separate presentations will be given concurrently by Chiefs of the centers in the AETD at various information booths. These presentations will provide information on the organizational structure and give employees an opportunity to share ideas about the information presented.

Holland Bell Retires

After 35 years of government service, Holland T. Bell retired effective May 2, 1997, as Deputy Director, Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate.

Arnold Torres, Director of Suborbital Projects and Operations, said, "Holland provided exemplary service and leadership to not only Wallops, but also to the Goddard Space Flight Center and the Agency as a whole. He is recognized for his expertise in data acquisition systems. This knowledge and the leadership he has provided Wallops will be missed. I wish him success in his future endeavors."

Following graduation in 1962 from Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, Bell came to Wallops and worked in the Telemetry Systems Section until 1989. During that period, he served two years of military service as a commissioned officer assigned to Wallops and was responsible for designing telemetry systems for range tracking systems, satellite payloads and sounding rocket payloads.

Bell was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1986. He was named head, Data Acquisition Branch in 1989 with responsibility for operation and maintenance of all radar, telecommunications and optical systems.

In 1991, Bell was appointed Technical Assistant to the Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate and in 1993 was appointed Chief, Engineering Division.

Bell was appointed Acting Deputy Director of Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate in April 1995 until he assumed the position of Deputy Director in May 1995. He served on various teams sponsored by NASA Headquarters to review ways of reducing overall operational cost for the Agency.

His many friends and co-workers wish him a long and happy retirement.

Wallops Employees Receive Goddard Awards

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Awards Ceremony was held May 29, 1997. Congratulations to the following NASA Wallops employees who received awards.

Exception Achievement Award.....

David Burkhead, Code 821
Claudia Fulk, Code 821
Gene Furness, Code 821
Drew Green, Code 822

Community Service Award.....

Wannamaker Lawrence, Code 233

Group Achievement Award.....

Wallops Range Control Center Software Support Team
ADEOS Automation Team

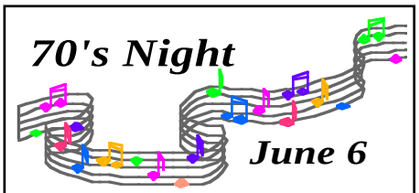
NASA Visitor Center June Events

June 7 and 21 - A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of varying types and sizes are launched, including models of NASA launch vehicles. Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets. The launch will be canceled if it is raining or if winds exceed 18 mph.

Space suit demonstrations will be held each Sunday in June at 1 p.m. During this 20 minute program, the audience will learn why space suits are necessary in space and how they protect astronauts. Following the presentation, children can participate in a special hands-on space suit activity during which each child can create their own “space helmet.” Both the demonstration and children’s hands-on activity are free.

Puppet shows are conducted each Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Join puppet astronauts and Sam the Monkey for a fun and informative look at Space. Children of all ages will enjoy this free presentation.

70's Night



June 6
Building F-3, 8 p.m.
DJ and Refreshments
$5 per person

Steak and Shrimp Dinner

June 14
6 p.m.
Building F-3
$15 per person
Advance Ticket Sales Only
Call x1133, x1483

Blood Drive
June 17
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Contact Linda Layton
x1561

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